

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

COMPETITIVE PRICE CHANGES

Docket No. CP2022-22

USPS RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2
(December 8, 2021)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to Chairman's Information Request No. 2, which was issued on December 2, 2021. Responses were due by December 9, 2021. Each question is reprinted verbatim in the response and is followed by the Postal Service's response.

The Commission filed Question 1 of the request publicly, and Questions 2 through 8 of the request under seal. Therefore, the Postal Service is including its responses to Question 1 as Attachment 1 to this notice. In addition, the Postal Service is filing its responses to Questions 2 through 8 under seal and relies upon the Application for Non-Public Treatment that the Postal Service filed in this docket on November 10, 2021.¹

¹ USPS Notice of Changes in Rates of General Applicability for Competitive Products, Docket No. CP2022-22, November 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

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1. Please refer to the Notice, Governors' Decision No. 21-6.² The Postal Service states that Premium Data Retention and Retrieval Service (USPS Tracking Plus) "will have a 51.5 percent price decrease in 2022, and the list of products eligible for the service will expand." Notice, Governors' Decision No. 21-6 at 5. The draft Mail Classification Schedule (MCS) language attached to the Governors' Decision No. 21-6 suggests that the newly eligible products for the USPS Tracking Plus service would include "Bound Printed Matter Flats and Parcels, Media and Library Mail, Certified Mail, Registered Mail, Priority Mail Express International, Outbound Priority Mail International, Outbound Single-Piece First-Class Package International Service for which Electronic USPS Delivery Confirmation® International Service is available, and certain pieces for those services for which Insurance has been purchased (not to include Global Express Guaranteed)." *Id.* Attachment § 2645.3.
 - a. Please explain whether the overall price decrease of 51.5 percent was calculated using only FY 2020 USPS Tracking Plus volumes (*i.e.*, volumes for the existing eligible products), or whether the overall price decrease also includes projected USPS Tracking Plus volumes for products that will become newly eligible.
 - b. USPS Tracking Plus service allows a customer to extend (1) scan or (2) scan + signature data retention period for customer's pieces "beyond the Postal Service's standard data retention period, for up to a certain number of years." *Id.* Please provide the Postal Service's standard data retention period for (1) scan data, and for (2) scan + signature data, as applicable, for each newly eligible domestic and outbound international product, for which USPS Tracking Plus service would be available effective January 9, 2022. Notice at 1. For those newly eligible products for which scan or scan + signature are not obtained upon delivery, please explain whether USPS Tracking Plus would be available only with the purchase of additional ancillary services, and list all applicable ancillary services for respective products.
 - c. USPS Tracking Plus is included under the Competitive Ancillary Services product, MCS § 2645, and is currently available only for domestic Competitive products. The products newly eligible for this service include domestic Market Dominant, as well as Competitive outbound international products. Please explain how the Postal Service will report revenues and costs associated with the provision of USPS Tracking Plus service for each newly eligible Market Dominant domestic and Competitive international product.

RESPONSE:

- a. The overall price decrease was calculated using only FY2020 USPS Tracking Plus volumes, *i.e.*, volumes for the existing eligible products; however, on

² Notice, Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on Changes in Rates of General Applicability for Competitive Products (Governors' Decision No. 21-6).

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further review, that overall price decrease was 51.7%, instead of 51.5%, as is noted in the response to Question 2. The overall price decrease does not include projected USPS Tracking Plus volumes for products that will become newly eligible.

- b. The Postal Service's standard data retention period for (1) scan data, and for (2) scan + signature data, as applicable, for each newly eligible domestic and outbound international product, for which USPS Tracking Plus service would be available effective January 9, 2022, are the following:

Class of Mail	Tracking Only	Signature Confirmation	Other Signature Services
Bound Printed Matter	120 days	1 year	2 years
Media Mail® and Library Mail	120 days	1 year	2 years
First-Class Mail® (Letters and Flats) with the purchase of a trackable extra service	120 days	1 year	2 years
USPS Marketing Mail® and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail parcels with the purchase of USPS Tracking®	120 days	N/A	2 years
Outbound Priority Mail Express International	2 years	N/A	N/A
Outbound Priority Mail International	1 year	N/A	N/A
Outbound Single Piece First-Class Package International Service (for which USPS Electronic USPS Delivery Confirmation® International Service is available)	1 year	N/A	N/A

For those newly eligible products for which scan or scan + signature are not obtained upon delivery, USPS Tracking Plus would not be available. Additional ancillary services can only be purchased at the time of mailing.

- c. Currently, the Postal Service reports revenues and costs for this product in the aggregate, which is to say, without reference to the underlying products to which the tracking data in question relate. The expansion of the list of products regarding which customers can request different treatment for electronic data relating to their mailings does not alter the limited nature of the fundamental service provided in exchange for payment of the additional fee. Instead, the

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expansion is intended to increase the number of customers who will select (and pay for) this option with respect to their electronic data. Consequently, the Postal Service does not anticipate any changes in the way revenue and cost information are reported for this relatively small product.